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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,794	11/26/2003	Yang Hwan No	K-0580	4136

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EXAMINER
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HECKERT, JASON MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/721,794

Applicant(s)

NO ET AL.

Examiner

Jason Heckert

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. Claim 6 objected to because of the following informalities: There is a misspelling in line 30: "ad" should read -and-. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1-4, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes in view of Appleton. Hughes discloses a drum type washing machine that has a cabinet 11 and is of the tumbler type (col. 1 line 63) comprising a rotating drum inside a tub. This style of washing machine is common and well known. Hughes also discloses a detergent dispenser accessible by door 16 (col. 2 line 4), which leads to a bent opening in top plate 13. It is common and well known to use means such as hinges to allow doors to be rotatably installed. Although Hughes discloses the dispenser, he does not disclose the fixing means of the dispenser to the machine or cover. Appleton discloses a means for fixing two moldings together. In Figures 4 and 5, Appleton shows upward protrusions 50 and downward protrusions 34. These protrusions hold screws 20, and the lower protrusion has an interior screw formed within, as depicted in Figure 5. Appleton does not disclose whether or not the

Art Unit: 1746

protrusions overlap, however these lower and upper protrusions come into contact as the screws are tightened. Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1955). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to fix the detergent box of Hughes to a washing machine or cover frame using the means disclosed by Appleton, as it provides a seal to prevent water from reaching the screws that could cause rust and a loss in structural integrity.

3. Claim 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes in view of Appleton, and further in view of convention. Hooks are a notoriously common means for fastening and hanging, and their use cannot be considered novel. It would have been obvious to modify Hughes and Appleton, as discussed previously, and use hooks as a means to fasten or hang the detergent dispenser to the machine, as taught by convention.

4. Claim 8, 13-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes in view of Schober. As stated previously, Hughes discloses a drum type washing machine with a detergent dispenser and a bent opening in top plate 13. Hughes also states that the detergent dispenser is accessible by a door. It is common and well known to use means such as hinges to allow doors to be rotatably installed. He does not disclose a cover frame with a rim loaded on an upper surface of the neighbor part. Schober discloses a design for a cap to a washing machine additive dispenser clearly comprising a cover frame with a bent lower portion to be fit into a bent opening. Furthermore, when in an opening, the opening to the exterior is bent as well. This bent portion is clearly meant to overlap a neighbor portion of the top plate or top

Art Unit: 1746

surface of a washing machine. This cap is capable of overlapping the neighbor part, as well as covering the detergent dispenser, wherein the neighbor part would be clamped in between. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention, to modify Hughes and include any known detergent dispenser cap, such as that disclosed by Schober, as an alternative option.

5. In regards to claim 15, it is notoriously well known in the art to provide a plurality of compartments in detergent dispensers in order to provide various wash aids, such as detergent and fabric conditioners and cannot be considered novel. It would have been obvious to modify Hughes with the detergent dispenser cap of Schober and include multiple compartments in the dispenser, as taught by convention, in order to provide a multitude of wash aids.

6. Claim 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes in view of Schober, and further in view of convention. Hooks are a notoriously common means for fastening and hanging, and their use cannot be considered novel. It would have been obvious to modify Hughes and Schober, as discussed previously, and use hooks as a means to fasten or hang the detergent dispenser to the machine, as taught by convention.

7. Claims 10-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes in view of Schober and further in view of Appleton. As stated previously, Hughes does not disclose the means of fixing the dispenser to the machine cover. As stated above in paragraph 2, Appleton discloses a means for fixing moldings together. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to fix the detergent box of

Art Unit: 1746

Hughes, with a cover taught by Schober, to a washing machine or cover frame using the means disclosed by Appleton, as it provides a seal to prevent water from reaching the screws that could cause rust and a loss in structural integrity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Heckert whose telephone number is (571) 272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH

  
MICHAEL BARR  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER